## FIRST FIVE STORIES

A young child moves freely as mother observes with a watchful eye. The child is able to explore his world safely. Mother is aware of developmental needs and purposefully does not interrupt the child's independence. The child moves back to mother bringing an object to her. The child's expression is pleasure. Mother talks with him, reassures him, he returns to exploring the table he was at. Back and forth the dialogue between mother and child, both in words and nonverbally, they communicate harmoniously. Both are delighted.

A mother engaged in an activity, child disengages, returns, mother makes little effort in child's returning, child leaves and does not come back. Mother processes at parenting group. She realizes there was a missed opportunity. Next Parent Interaction Group mother follows child's lead. Child smiles, delighted, mother smiles and is delighted. The goal of interacting with her child was a success. She was able to move into the child's world.

A young child brightly smiles, giggles in delight as he plays a game with his mother during a Parent Interaction Group. Mother laughs and says to therapist, "I didn't even know he knew how to play this game." A mother and child communicate positively with each other. Child sees her delight, and he takes in his mother's amazement at his ability.

The Parent Interaction Group works on signing words with their children. A mother who had some experience in signing with her child and had been using the technique encourages other members of the group, using her baby to demonstrate that children very young can sign. Child is less frustrated being able to communicate. Parents take it upon themselves between groups to practice signing. They are better than the instructor!

A new mother, hours into the shelter, attends a Parent Interaction Group for the first time. The mother involves herself in the activity, child wanders away. Mother calls for the infant, infant looks, does not respond the mother's request. Mother gets up and picks up child. For awhile the child enjoys mother's attention. Mother returns to activity, child wanders away, pattern repeats. Therapist picks up child and brings to mother, encourages mother to engage with child. Mother observes, child giggles, wants to play more. Mother begins playing with child toes, he giggles. Mother and child continue interaction. Child enjoys being attended to.

A mother with young child tries to engage child in activity. Child runs from mother, it becomes a game for him. Now he has mother's full attention. Therapist encourages mother to go with child if activity is not what interests him. Mother takes child to play area and has one on one with child. Mother held child going down the slide together, caught him into her arms. Interaction was positive for child. Less distraction and more tactile with mother's embrace, a more physical rough tumble play was better tolerated by the child. His mother learned the temperament of her child and developmental needs were to be active.

A three year old boy came into our shelter with his mother escaping a violent home. In the beginning he wasn't talking or listening to anybody and he didn't even make eye contact with other residents. He cried and screamed a lot and very often hit other children and his mom. When asked what his name was, he answered "My name is Trouble." Because that was the way his Dad called to him. After two weeks in the shelter, his behavior started to change. He is learning to communicate better with his mother and other people. Now he is playing with other kids, without hitting them. He is learning how to listen to them and share toys with them. He is also putting away toys after he is done playing with them. When you ask him now, what is his name, he will answer with his correct name.

An 18-month old baby and mother came into our shelter after leaving a very violent relationship. In the beginning he would cry a lot and would need to be held most of the time. After a few days in a safe and quiet environment he is feeling safer. His mom is spending more time with him, reading to him, playing with him and talking to him. He smiles a lot now and is exploring his surroundings without fear. This young child interacts with other children and clients in the shelter.